

REMARKS

The Examiner considers that three inventions are defined by the claims and requires restriction between

Group I - claim(s) 1-3, 5, 6, 9, 10, and 12, drawn to nucleic acid sequences, oligonucleotides, and kits comprising oligonucleotides;

Group II, claim(s) 4, drawn to methods of oligonucleotide design and preparation; and

Group III, claim(s) 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, and 16, drawn to methods of mutation detection comprising oligonucleotides.

Applicants respectfully traverse this requirement but in order to expedite prosecution applicants provisionally elect the subject matter of claims of Group III, namely claims 7, 8, 11, 13, 15 and 16.

It is respectfully requested that the subject matter of new claims 17-26 be examined with subject matter of Group III. Support for new claims 17 and 18 is found, *inter alia*, in original claims 6 and 7. Support for new claims 19-26 is found, *inter alia*, in Example 3.

The four species provisionally elected are:

- i) Single combination of probes: SEQ ID NOs: 56 and 59
- ii) Single combination of probes: SEQ ID NOs: 56 and 57.
- iii) Single combination of mutation: 313+insT.
- iv) Single combination of oligonucleotides: SEQ ID NOs: 56 to 59.

The Sequence Listing is being filed with this response. The Sequence Listing being submitted on CD herewith replaces the Sequence Listing previously on file.

All rights to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter of the nonelected claims and/or any other subject matter is disclosed in the specification are preserved.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' and 'C' that are interconnected. The signature is written over a horizontal line.

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